(671)

UNITED
NATIONS

TD

United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/41(1)/1
10 August 1994

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Forty-first session
First part
Geneva, 19 September 1994
Item 1(b) of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

Provisional agenda and annotations for the first part of the forty-first session of the Board

Introductory note

The secretariat's annotations are intended to furnish essential background information covering the provisional agenda items, together with a brief description of the relevant documentation (sections I and II).

A checklist of documents will be issued at the beginning of the session.

GE.94-53319

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA*

1. Procedural matters:

   (a) Election of officers

   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

   (c) Adoption of the report on credentials

   (d) Provisional agenda for the second part of the forty-first session of the Board

   (e) Provisional agenda for the pre-sessional executive session of the Board (Spring 1995)

2. International implications of macroeconomic policies and issues concerning interdependence: elements of successful growth and adjustment strategies

3. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Conference at its eighth session:

   [To be completed in the light of developments]

4. Sustainable development: trade and environment - the impact of environment-related policies on export competitiveness and market access

5. Analysis and assessment of the outcome of the Uruguay Round, in particular in areas of concern to developing countries and economies in transition concerned, and its impact on the international trading system and problems of implementation

6. Celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of UNCTAD

7. UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people

8. Other matters in the field of trade and development:

   (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: twenty-seventh annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law;

   (b) United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency;

   (c) The issue of structural adjustment for the transition to disarmament

   [to be completed in the light of developments]

---

* Originally approved by the Board at its 841st plenary meeting, on 29 April 1994, this provisional agenda was revised in the light of the outcome of the Mid-Term Review at the resumed session of the Trade and Development Board (25 - 27 May 1994) to include an additional item (item 8(c)).

9. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

   (a) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board;

   (b) Designation and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board;

   (c) Review of the calendar of meetings;

   (d) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

10. Other business.

11. Adoption of the report of the Board.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 - Procedural matters

The rules of procedure of the Board are contained in TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1.

Item 1(a) - Election of officers
(Rules 18 and 19)

In accordance with rules 18 and 19 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board shall consist of 12 members, including 4 members from List A (Africa/Asia), 4 from List B, 2 from List C and 2 from List D, referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995(XIX), as amended.

In accordance with the cycle for the rotation of the office of President of the Board, the President at the forty-first session shall be a representative of one of the States in List C (Latin America).

At the second part of its fortieth session, the Board designated H.E. Mr. Richard A. Pierce (Jamaica) as President of the Board at its forty-first session.

In accordance with the cycle for the rotation of the office of Rapporteur, the Rapporteur at the forty-first session of the Board shall be a representative of one of the African States in List A.

No documentation

Item 1(b) - Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

Agenda

The provisional agenda for the session, as approved by the Board at the second part of its fortieth session, and revised in the light of the mid-term review (25 - 27 May 1994), is reproduced in Section I above.

Documentation

TD/B/41(1)/1	Provisional agenda and annotations
TD/B/41(1)/1/Add.1	Addendum

Organization of work

The organization of work for the session, as approved by the Consultations of the Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD on 8 July 1994, will be circulated to the Board.

Documentation

TD/B/41(1)/1/Add.2	Organisation of work

Item 1(c) - Adoption of the report on credentials
(Rule 17.2)

"The Bureau of the Board shall examine the credentials and submit their report to the Board."

In-session documentation

Item 1(d) - Provisional agenda for the second part of the forty-first session of the Board

Pursuant to rule 8 of the rules of procedure, the Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD will submit during the session a draft provisional agenda for the second part of the forty-first session of the Board.

In-session documentation

Item 1(e) - Provisional agenda for the pre-sessional executive session of the Board (Spring 1995)

The Board may wish to request the Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD to draw up a draft provisional agenda in the light of developments nearer to the time of the pre-sessional executive session, and to submit it for approval to the consultative machinery established in accordance with paragraph 83 of the Cartagena Commitment.

No documentation

Item 2 - International implications of macroeconomic policies and issues concerning interdependence: elements of successful growth and adjustment strategies

Paragraph 66 of the Cartagena Commitment calls for the Board to address annually a topic relating to the international implications of macro-economic policies and issues concerning interdependence, using the Trade and Development Report as background.

The topic approved by the Board for consideration under item 2 - "Elements of successful growth and adjustment strategies" - is addressed in TDR 1994. The relevant sections of the TDR are Part I ("Global Trends") and Part II ("Rethinking Economic Policies: Lessons From Experience").

In addition, the UNCTAD Review 1994 is relevant to the discussions under this item. It contains a number of contributions on issues related to interdependence, growth and adjustment. There are: J. Kregel, "Capital flows: Globalization of production and financing development", S. Lall, "Industrial policy: The role of government in promoting industrial and technological development", A. Singh, "Growing independently of the world economy: Asian economic development since 1980", R. French-Davis, D. Titelman and A. Uthoff, "International competitiveness and the macroeconomics of capital account opening", D. Felix, "Industrial development in East Asia: What are the lessons for Latin America", G.K. Helleiner, "From adjustment to development in sub-Saharan Africa", and A. Köves, "From 'great leaps forward' to normalcy: Some issues in transitional polices in Eastern Europe".

Documentation

Trade and Development Report, 1994
Trade and Development Report 1994, Overview
UNCTAD Review 1994

Item 3 - Follow-up to the recommendations of the Conference at its eighth session

- Role and functioning of the executive sessions of the Trade and Development Board

By decision 398(XXXVIII), of 7 May 1992, the Board adopted, inter alia,

guidelines for its meetings in executive session, based on the mandate provided in paragraph 67 of the Cartagena Commitment.

At its second (pre-sessional) executive session on 5 March 1993, following points raised by delegations, the Board requested the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD to hold consultations with a view to enabling delegations to decide on how to reform the functioning of its executive sessions and thereby improve the effectiveness of these sessions.

At the Consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 1 June 1993, the Board agreed that a formal review of the role and functions of the executive sessions of the Board should be undertaken in conjunction with the mid-term review in May 1994.

In its Conclusions and Decisions [illegible].5(XL), of 27 May 1994, the Board agreed that the executive session remains a valuable mechanism and that modalities should be worked out to make optimum use of this mechanism. The suggestion was made that two types of meeting be held: One would be a pre-sessional meeting called to deal mainly with procedural/administrative/organizational matters. The other, to be convened at regular intervals between statutory sessions of the Board, would handle mainly policy matters.

The Board requested the secretariat to propose, in consultation with member States, further refinements of the functioning and role of the executive sessions, taking into consideration the functions of the regular sessions of the Trade and Development Board, and to report to the next regular session of the Board.

In this connection, the Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD, at the monthly consultations held on 8 July 1994, invited delegations to contribute views and ideas on the subject and requested those wishing to do so to submit their contribution to him in writing by the end of August 1994 at the latest.

Documentation

TD/B/41(1)/CRP.1 — The role and functioning of executive sessions of the Trade and Development Board

Item 4 - Sustainable development: trade and environment - the impact of environment-related policies on export competitiveness and market access

It will be recalled that, by Decision 402(XXXIX), of 26 March 1993, on "Sustainable development", the Board decided that the theme "Trade and environment" should be considered at the first part of each of its annual sessions and that at the first part of its fortieth session it would consider the specific issue "Trends in the field of trade and environment within the framework of international cooperation". The report prepared by the secretariat on this issue was circulated in TD/B/40(1)/6 and was discussed by the Board at that session.

In its Conclusions 407(XL), of 1 October 1993, the Board set out a series of elements on which a broad convergence of views had emerged on the linkages between trade and environment policies and a number of specific elements of particular relevance for the further work of UNCTAD in this area. In the same Conclusions, the Board decided to consider at the first part of its forty-first session the theme "The impact of environment-related policies on export competitiveness and market access." A report covering this theme will accordingly be before the Board.

In its Agreed Conclusions 411(XL), of 29 April 1994, on "Sustainable development", the Board agreed that it would be useful to establish a special institutional mechanism for dealing with inter-related areas of trade, environment and development. In the context of the mid-term review, the Board adopted Conclusions and Decisions 415(XL), of 27 May 1994 by which, inter alia, it established three new Ad Hoc Working Groups, including one on Trade, Environment and Development. The Board also approved terms of reference/work programmes for the new Working Groups, on the understanding that broad policy aspects of some of the issues covered by these Working Groups, such as sustainable development and trade policy,

would be dealt with by the Trade and Development Board.

The report which will be before the Board in response to Conclusions 407(XL) deals with the issues relating to the linkages between environmental policies, export competitiveness and market access particularly for developing countries.

Documentation

TD/B/41(1)/4 — The impact of environment-related policies on export competitiveness and market access Report by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 5 - Analysis and assessment of the outcome of the Uruguay Round, in particular in areas of concern to developing countries and economies in transition concerned, and its impact on the international trading system and problems of implementation

Paragraph 144 of the Cartagena Commitment requested the Trade and Development Board to analyse and assess the outcome of the Uruguay Round, in particular in areas of interest or concern to developing countries, and its impact on the international trading system. In this context the Board should examine the problems and opportunities the developing countries, as well as economies in transition in Central and Eastern Europe, face in increasing their participation in international trade in goods and services in the 1990s.

In the light of the mandate provided in General Assembly resolution 47/183, the Board, in its Agreed Conclusions 410 (XL), of 29 April 1994,[1] inter alia, agreed that the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round and the signing of the Final Act at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994 was a milestone in the evolution of international economic relations and represented a victory for a rule-based multilateral trading system. The Board also emphasized that the full and speedy implementation of the Round's results, including the early establishment of the World Trade Organization, should be considered as the most urgent priority in order to realize the potential of the Final Act, and recognized that there should be a constructive and effective cooperation between UNCTAD and WTO, based on the complementary functions of the two organizations. In addition, the Board agreed that UNCTAD should, inter alia, follow developments in the international trading system and identify new trading opportunities arising from the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements; prepare policy analysis and provide a forum for intergovernmental deliberation and global consensus-building on the new and emerging issues of the international trade agenda; and "refocus and intensify, where necessary, its technical assistance in the light of the Uruguay Round agreements aiming to increase the capacities of developing countries, especially the least developed among them, as well as to the economies in transition concerned, for their effective participation in the international trading system, and to ensure an efficient cooperation with relevant international organizations, in particular with the WTO and ITC."

In the same Agreed Conclusions, the Board decided that, as a matter of priority, it would, at the first part of its forty-first session, conduct an in-depth analysis and assessment of the outcome of the Uruguay Round, in particular in areas of concern to developing countries and economies in transition concerned, and its impact on the international trading system and problems of implementation[2].

---

[1] See report of the Board to the General Assembly on the second part of its fortieth session (TD/B/40(2)/24 (Vol.I), Part I.A.

[2] In this context, attention is drawn to the relevant activities of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Expansion of Trading Opportunities for Developing Countries in relation to the Uruguay Round. See report by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/WG.4/13); and the Final Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group (TD/B/41(1)/7-TD/B/WG.4/15).

As a result of the Mid-Term Review of the Cartagena Commitment, the Board decided to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group on Trading Opportunities in the New International Trading Context. In addition, the Board agreed to the holding of a seminar on regional economic arrangements and their relationship with the multilateral trading system.

In connection with this item, the Board's attention is drawn to Part Three of the Trade and Development Report, 1994 and Supplement thereto, representing an initial analysis and assessment of the outcome of the Uruguay Round.

Item 6 - Celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of UNCTAD

In accordance with a series of mandates from the Trade and Development Board, informal consultations on arrangements and preparations for the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of UNCTAD have been conducted by the President of the thirty-ninth session of the Board, H.E. Mr. Günduz Aktan (Turkey), who has been reporting regularly to the Board. In document TD/B/EX(5)/CRP.1, the secretariat circulated a second progress report, which was before the Board at its fifth (pre-sessional) executive session on 8 April 1994. At its 841st plenary meeting, on 29 April 1994, the Board agreed that the President of the thirty-ninth session should continue to follow the arrangements for the celebration of the anniversary in the period ahead and on into the forty-first session of the Board.

The celebration of the thirtieth anniversary will be the culmination of a series of events organized to mark the occasion, and two commemorative stamps are being issued from each of the United Nations centres in New York, Vienna and Geneva. It has also been agreed to use the occasion of the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency as an opportunity to mark the celebration of the anniversary.

In September 1994, the Swiss authorities will be hosting a seminar around the theme "Trade prospects for the developing countries up to the year 2000 and beyond". This seminar will bring together the outputs from three regional seminars held on the Asian and Pacific, Latin American and African regions. The participants in the seminar will include experts from various regions in both developed and developing countries, who will share with the Trade and Development Board the outcome of their deliberations. This exchange will be held in an informal setting on the morning and afternoon of Thursday 29 September. On the morning of Friday 30 September, the Board will hear Group statements and any other official interventions in connection with the thirtieth anniversary of UNCTAD and may also have before it for adoption a draft Declaration of the Trade and Development Board to mark the occasion of the 30th anniversary of UNCTAD.

A short audiovisual presentation will be given on the afternoon of Friday 30 September, immediately prior to the final plenary meeting.

Full details concerning the programme for the celebration of the 30th anniversary will be published during the session in the Daily Programme.

No documentation

Item 7 - UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people

Conference resolution 146(VI) established the mandate of the UNCTAD secretariat's Special Economic Unit (Palestinian people). At its eighth session, the Conference agreed that UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people should be continued in its current form.

By decision 47/445, of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly requested the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to sustain its programme for the Palestinian people in its current form, in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Assembly also urged that Conference staff and experts be given access to the occupied Palestinian territory; and invited the Trade and Development Board to consider making appropriate reporting arrangements to enable the General Assembly to be informed by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on the progress made in the implementation of Decision 47/445.

Accordingly, the report prepared by the Secretariat for the deliberations of the Board at the first part of its forty-first session reviews developments in the economy of the occupied Palestinian territory, with special reference to external trade. Part I, covering major developments in the period July 1993-June 1994, examines the new policy environment influencing the Palestinian economy (including implications of the Israel-Palestine agreements); international assistance to the Palestinian people; and, main developments and immediate challenges in the Palestinian economy. Part II, identifies key issues facing Palestinian external trade and related services, and highlights the main thrust of a proposed UNCTAD programme for technical cooperation activities in support of Palestinian trade and related sectors. Part III reviews the work of the Special Economic Unit in the period 1993-1994.

In accordance with past practice, the Board may wish to take note of the report by the UNCTAD secretariat. As was the case at the first part of its fortieth session the Board may also wish, in response to General Assembly Decision 47/445, to decide that the summary of the discussions under this item should be annexed to the report of the Board to the General Assembly.

Documentation

TD/B/41(1)/3	Developments in the economy of the occupied Palestinian territory, with special reference to external trade

Item 8 - Other matters in the field of trade and development

Item 8(a) - Progressive development of the law of international trade: twenty-seventh annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

The twenty-seventh session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law was held in New York from 31 May to 17 June 1994. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2205(XXI), the report on the session will be before the Board.

Assembly resolution 2205(XXI) also provides that any comments or recommendations which the Board may wish to make on the report shall be transmitted to the General Assembly. Likewise, any suggestions for topics to be included in the work of UNCITRAL, and any other recommendations by the Board relevant to the work of UNCITRAL, shall be transmitted to the General Assembly.

Documentation

TD/B/41(1)/12	Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
A/49/17	Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-seventh session

Item 8(b) - United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency

Within the context of the resumed second part of its fortieth session (mid-term review), the Board considered the Final Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency and endorsed the recommendations contained therein. Accordingly, in its Conclusions and Decisions 415(XL), of 27 May 1994, the Board established a Preparatory Committee for the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency (UNISTE), with the same Bureau as that which had served the Ad Hoc Working Group. The Board also agreed that the Preparatory Committee should meet from 27 June to 1 July 1994, with the possibility of a further meeting in early September 1994, if necessary.

In the light of the above, the Preparatory Committee met from 27 June to 1 July 1994, and its report will be made available to the Board. Attention is drawn to Annex I, containing the decision adopted by the Preparatory Committee. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of the decision, provision has been made for the Board, within the framework of the first part of its forty-first session, to devote half a day to an information session on the Symposium - i.e. on the morning of Wednesday, 28 September.

Pursuant to paragraph 18 of its Conclusions and decisions 415 (XL), of 27 May 1994, the Board will convene its eighth executive session at the earliest opportunity after the Symposium to consider such follow-up work as might be needed. Arrangements have also been made for the outcome of the Symposium to be considered by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, when the Assembly will have before it the report of the Symposium, as well as the report of the Board on its eighth executive session.

Documentation

TD/SYMP.TE/4 TD/SYMP.TE/PC/3	Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency on its first session

Item 8(c) - The issue of structural adjustment for the transition to disarmament

By decision 399(XXXIX), of 9 October 1992, the Board established an Ad Hoc Working Group to explore the issue of structural adjustment for the transition to disarmament.

As mandated by the Board at the second part of its thirty-ninth session, the President of the thirty-ninth session has been holding informal consultations on the draft terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Working Group, and has been reporting regularly to the Board.

In the context of the mid-term review of the Cartagena Commitment, the Board, at its 843rd plenary meeting on 27 May 1994, requested the President of the thirty-ninth session to continue his informal consultations. At the same meeting, the Board decided that an item "The issue of structural adjustment for the transition to disarmament" should be inscribed on the agenda for the first part of its forty-first session.

The President of the thirty-ninth session will report orally to the Board.

Documentation

In-session, if appropriate

Item 9 - Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters

Item 9(a) - Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

A list of the intergovernmental organizations in status with UNCTAD is contained in TD/B/INF.106/Rev.5 and Add. 1-3.

At the first part of its forty-first session, the Board will be invited to consider an application from the Central American Integration System (SICA).

Documentation

TD/B/41(1)/R.1	Application by the Central American Integration System (SICA)

Item 9(b) - Designation and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

At present there are 162 NGOs in status with UNCTAD - 75 in the General Category and 87 in the Special Category. A list of these is contained in TD/B/INF.107/Rev.6 and Add. 1-2. Any new applications will be reflected in an addendum to the present document.

Change of name of an NGO

The Board is informed that, in a communication dated 25 April 1994, the Secretary-General of the World Assembly for Small and Medium Enterprises (WASME), a non-governmental organization granted General Category status at the thirtieth session of the Board, informed the UNCTAD secretariat that henceforth the organization would be known as the World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises. The acronym remains unchanged.

Inclusion of a national NGO in the Register in conformity with Board decision 43(VII)

The Board may wish to take note that, following consultations with the member State concerned (Spain), the UNCTAD secretariat has included the Fundación para el Fomento de la Información Automatizada (FUINCA) in the Register of national non-governmental organizations provided for under Board decision 43(VII), sections III and IV.

Documentation

TD/B/41(1)/L.1	Inclusion of a national non-governmental organization in the Register in conformity with decision 43(VII) of the Trade and Development Board: Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 9(c) - Review of the calendar of meetings

The Board will have before it a revised calendar of meetings for the remainder of 1994, as approved by the Consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, together with a note of any further adjustments recommended by the Calendar Group, if applicable.

An indicative calendar for 1995 and a tentative schedule of meetings for 1996 will be annexed for planning purposes.

Documentation

TD/B/41(1)/L.2 Review of the calendar of meetings

Item 9(d) - Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

The Board will be informed during the session of the administrative and financial implications of any proposals before it.

In-session documentation, if required

Item 10 - Other business

Item 11 - Adoption of the report of the Board

In accordance with Board decision 259(XXV), two versions of the report of the Board are prepared: (a) the report of the Board to the General Assembly, containing the resolutions and decisions of the Board and any other material which the Board decides to transmit to the Assembly; and (b) the full account of the Board's proceedings, which constitutes the official record of the Board's session.